

New Jersey City University
US Politics, sec. 8312
Summer 1 2009

Final Exam

Administrative Details:

This is a take home exam due in class on *29 June*. Late submissions will be docked one-third of a grade for each day late. Include a title page with your name on it, *but do not include your name elsewhere on the exam* (for example, in headers or footers). Allow around 2-3 pages per question (doubles-spaced, with reasonable margins and font sizes). Proofread your work carefully. Spelling and grammar errors undermine the flow of the argument and will adversely impact your grade. If you consult any outside sources, provide a full bibliographic and footnote citation; if you just use our textbook, then you need only to indicate the page numbers and can omit the full citation.

Questions

Please answer two (2) of the following:

1. Of the myriad problems facing the US at the moment, what do you see as the most important domestic challenge facing the country over the next decade? What, if anything, is the government doing to meet those challenges? What should it be doing?
2. Over the next decade, what is likely to be the most significant foreign policy or national security threat facing the country? Why? What is the government doing to prepare for that threat? What should it be doing?
3. If the Founding Fathers could somehow be summoned to observe our contemporary American political system, what do you think they would identify as the biggest changes to have occurred to since the founding and would they approve of those changes?
4. What feature of the American political system is most in need of reform? In your answer discuss the significance of the feature you identify and explain clearly both why it needs to be reformed, what reforms you would suggest, and why those reforms would work to improve American politics.